

Council Connection

Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council

empowerment • opportunity • inclusion

July 2014

In This Issue

New Guidance: Health & Human Services
MD Sibling Network
ADA 24th Anniversary
Did You Know?
Low Intensity Support Services
Contact Us
Council Announces New Initiatives
New Small Grants
Developmental Disabilities Administration
Council Welcomes 4 New Members
Council Thanks Members

New Guidance from Health & Human Services

HHS.gov/HealthCare

Important guidance on person-centered planning and self-direction for Section 2402(a) of the [Affordable Care Act](#). New information will help empower people who receive long-term services & supports. [Read more.](#)

MD Sibling Network is now on Facebook!



The MD Sibling Network is designed to assist adult siblings to connect - in person & online - with other siblings for support,

Council Announces New Initiatives

3 Community Empowerment Grants

Creating Housing Opportunities for People with Autism & other Developmental Disabilities *Howard County Autism Society*

The Howard County Autism Society will contract with a consultant with experience and expertise to identify successful housing options for individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities that utilize a person-centered approach. The goal is to identify creative housing options that can be implemented in Howard County, and identify the opportunities and barriers so that more people with autism and other developmental disabilities can live independently, in a home of his or her choice with appropriate supports. [More information](#)



Southern MD Center for Independent Living

The goal of this grant is to provide information and awareness to local businesses about the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements/reasonable accommodations for publicly accessed facilities, businesses and public areas. Two volunteers will educate businesses about the importance of improving accessibility, identify barriers, and advocate for change. They will also provide information and resources about the ADA and local ADA certified installers located in Southern Maryland to help interested business become more accessible. [More information](#)

Strategic Action for Powerful Impact in Prince George's County *Prince George's County ADDCAC*

The goal of the Prince George's County Adults with Developmental Disabilities Citizen Advisory Committee's (ADDAC) grant is to develop an action plan that will result in specific, concrete and powerful impact by April 2015. The ADDAC will hire a consultant with experience and expertise to help develop a strategic plan with clear action steps to complete a project that will have a positive impact on the lives of people with developmental disabilities in the county and results in a project/activity that fully includes people with developmental disabilities into community life. [More information](#)

New Small Grants

The DD Council recently approved funding for the following small grants, intended to support some of our priorities:

Our Stories

Aislinn Olthoff, a high school junior, will collect, write and publish stories about people who have siblings with disabilities. The publication will be distributed to elementary schools. In addition, Ms. Olthoff will coordinate and hold a sibling panel to educate school personnel in Montgomery County. The project was awarded \$680 for publication costs.

Achieving Important Life Changes Project

Shared Support Maryland was awarded \$2500 to support the development

information & more.
[MD Sib Network](#)

ADA 24th Anniversary Celebration



July 26th 1:30-4:30
Cultural Arts Center
Montgomery County
[Directions & Parking](#)

Did You Know?



DDA is offering 15 application assistance sessions about LISS in July. For locations, [DDA Website](#)

Low Intensity Support Services



LISS agencies will accept requests by mail, in-person & e-mail July 1- 31. For more information, visit [DDA Website](#)

Contact Us

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of a new initiative that will help people with developmental disabilities and family members identify personal advocacy goals and carry out advocacy plans to achieve desired change in their lives. Among other things, activities will include a leadership workshop and follow-up support to 30 people and the development of a planning guide to be used for replication. [Shared Support MD](#)

Transitioning Youth Resource Fair

\$1550 was awarded to support and increase the impact of a Transitioning Youth Resource Fair in Montgomery County and to expand outreach to Spanish-speaking families. The plan is to expand beyond 350 attendees and 45 exhibitors. TransCen, Inc. will receive the funds on behalf of a diverse planning group. [TY Resource Fair](#)

Developmental Disabilities Administration

Low Intensity Support Services

As the Developmental Disabilities Administration has implemented changes to its Low Intensity Support Services (LISS) program this year, there has been some confusion. Here is a brief overview:

The Developmental Disabilities Council's LISS Stakeholder Workgroup recommended changes intended to improve the LISS program and expand its reach to significantly more individuals and families. These recommendations included:

- Changing from a first-come, first served application process to a more equitable random selection process;
- Changing from funds being available one time each year to two times each year;
- Lowering the per person cap in order to support many more individuals and families; with the new cap based on the average cost of services per family.

To read all of the workgroup's recommendations and rationale, see our [full report](#).

Although DDA agreed with most of the workgroup's recommendations, DDA implemented additional changes that the workgroup did not recommend or necessarily agree with. These included, but were not limited to:

- Making people on the Model Waiver ineligible for LISS;
- Making people receiving REM (Rare and Expensive Case Management) ineligible for LISS
- Changing the amount of funds allocated to each region.

To learn more about other changes and how the program is now operating, including how to apply, go to [DDA's website](#).

The Developmental Disabilities Administration, which administers and funds LISS, has asked the Developmental Disabilities Council, a public policy and advocacy organization, to re-engage the LISS Stakeholder Workgroup to provide recommendations about LISS eligibility, regional allocation of funds and other issues for consideration in 2015. Our recommendations will be made available publicly.

To provide feedback or ideas directly to DDA regarding any LISS program issue, email: DDA.LISS@maryland.gov

Council Welcomes 4 New Members

Staci Jones -- Senior Director of Day & Employment



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Services at The Arc of Washington County with specific interests in community based supports.



Russell Young -- parent of two sons, one with a developmental disability. Russell has an interest in advancing public policy initiatives to support people with developmental disabilities to live and work in the community. He lives in Baltimore County.

Ruth Shipps -- an advocate from Prince George's County interested in making transportation more accessible and increasing employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.

Adam VanderHook -- a Howard County resident with a brother with a developmental disability who brings experience and perspective of the Waiting List and sibling issues.

Council Thanks Members for their Commitment

At the completion of their terms, Council Chairperson Eric Cole presented three members with framed citations in honor of their service and leadership.



Grace Pushparany-Williams & Eric Cole



Angela Harp



Eric Cole & Gail Godwin

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